

Black Frog



BLACK FROG #39

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 39, APRIL 1, 1981

**** SPECIAL HOBBY NEWS ISSUE ****

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DIPLOMACY WORLD FAKED

Getting two issues of Diplomacy World in the same week was indeed a big surprise, especially since both of them were marked as issue 27. I have checked with Jerry Jones to confirm that the one with the green cover is indeed a fake. It is a splendid job and really looks genuine. Even the mailing envelopes were faked.

Yes, I was taken in by it at first, but there were just too many things that weren't right. Like Mark Lew being the top rated player in the update of the Dragon's Tooth Ratings. Then the real issue, the one with the gray cover, arrived and I knew it was a fake.

The fake issue is purportedly green because it is a theme issue devoted to "How to play Italy." The feature eight page article of this theme is really full of far out and weird strategies for playing Italy. The authorship of this bit is credited to Dave Grabar; if any other name had been penned on it, it would have been immediately obvious that it was a fake. There is also a non-Diplomacy related article on Irish humor (is this also in keeping with the green cover?) is attributed to Michael Mills. Most of the jokes contained in this article are quite crude or vulgar, however.

By comparison, the real issue of DW is rather drab and uninteresting. An article on the history of variants by Fred Davis is interesting and there are three good articles by Mark Berch (a new variant and two brief strategy bits) but from there on it is downhill. An article on houserules by Linsey and one on absurd convoy situations not covered by the rulebook (situations that have never and will never appear in a real game) by Larzelere are both a complete waste of print.

All in all the fake was quite enjoyable and much better reading than the real issue. (I didn't do it!!!)

It seems like a lot of hobby personalities have been in the news of late. The balance of this special issue of Black Frog will be devoted to coverage of some of these news items.

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ARNETT

I have just been served papers by the Municipal court and find that Bob Arnett is bringing a lawsuit against me for slander because of statements made in the last issue of Black Frog. Arnett is asking \$25,000 in damages, claiming that my statements will do irreparable damage to his insurance business. He also claims that some of the statements that I made were not true. He went to P.T.I. (Philadelphia Textile Institute) and not George Washington University, and only for three years, not graduating.

I will keep readers posted of the outcome of this lawsuit.

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BAUMEISTER

Dick Martin has sent in word in regard to Konrad Baumeister. Konrad has checked into Surgeon's General Hospital in Washington D.C. for surgery. It seems that he is having a bone chip removed from his right shoulder.

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CALHAMER

Diplomacy is a multi-player war game invented by Allan B. Calhamer and presently owned by Avalon Hill Company. There are no immediate game openings in BF at this time.

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CARUSO

John Caruso has just announced that he will have game openings for "Chutes and Ladders" in his gamezine, Whitestonia. Dave Grabar has already signed up and the games are expected to fill fast, so don't wait. John Caruso, 160-02 43rd Ave (2nd floor), Flushing, New York 11358.

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CORFELD

I have just received a cryptic note from Jean Marie Corfeld: "Does Naval Orange mean anything to you?" No, it doesn't, how about the rest of you readers? Does it mean anything to you?

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COUGHLAN

Gary Coughlan is reportedly very upset currently and may quit the hobby. The following factors are cited for creating this condition. (1) Not only was "The Shark" not elected the hobby mascot, but he failed to get a single vote. Gary himself voted for the shark, but his vote was not counted because it was sent in on a postcard 3/8" under the standard size. (2.) Bob Olsen pushed him back out of Berlin in 1979KG. (3.) He has been getting all kinds of mail recently telling him that both Y'All and the "original" Europa Express were better than the real EE. (4.) He has received a letter from the K.I.A. (Koreans In America) organization asking him to quit trying to write "Korean" because he really doesn't know or understand the language and his attempts to use the language are full of grammatical errors. (5.) He has been unable to produce a row of "camels" as a separator in EE.

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DEL GRANDE

Not only has Don Del Grande been thrown out of the 'zine Graustark, but John Boardman has resigned from the game of Source of the Nile that he was playing in Del Grande's 'zine, Life of Monty. There is a reason for this, it seems that Boardman has come up with some very strong evidence linking Del Grande as the party responsible for publishing the two fake issues of Y'All.

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GUAJARDO

(This is a personal message to Arturo Guajardo--all others disregard.) Sorry my friend, but I am going to have to build a fleet in 1981C (The "press" game in Jihad) and move against you. I have 50 very good reasons for doing this. Al Pearson provided me with all 50 of them. They are green and have a picture of Ulysses S. Grant on the front of them. Sorry my friend.

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GIDDINGS

Word from Enid is that the Oklahoma state Dental Board has just revoked Al Gidding's license to practice dentistry in the state of Oklahoma. Al was found guilty of giving a periodontic treatment to a female patient while she was under anaesthesia and had not fitted with the proper prosthodontic device. During the hearing in regard to the first charge, it also came out that he had been performing illegal frenectomies on a regular basis.

HARTMAN

Today (being the date of publication of this issue of Black Frog) is Mike Hartman's birthday. Happy Birthday Mike!

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JAY & JANE

Jay and Jane refers to two of my favorite people in the hobby, Jay Shufeldt and Jane Proskin. Jane's latest weekend in Las Vegas was apparently spent with Jay. But, something must have really happened between the two of them because THEY GOT MARRIED. Congratulations to both of you, I hope you will be very happy together and I hope your marriage will not impair either of you in your involvement in the hobby. (And Jane, if you ever feel a deep need to run your fingers through a bushy head of hair again, please come and look me up.)

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KELLEY

Do you all remember John Kelley? Although a high school student, John was very active in the hobby a year ago and published the 'zine The Beholder. I have just gotten word from John, the first in a very long time. John says that he will both graduate from high school and get married this June. His wife to be is, in John's own words, "a widow, very old and very wealthy". He goes on, "I don't expect to have to ever get a job and go to work." "She is buying me a Xerox 2400 for my graduation present and I may start publishing The Beholder again, after I get back from our ten week honeymoon in Tahiti." Well, John it sounds like you have really hit onto something. I wish you the best of luck! (But are you sure that you haven't been playing to much D&D and are losing touch with the real world?)

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LEW

How's this for a conspiracy theory?

I've got photos of Alaskan Mark Lew taken on the grassy knoll at Dealey Plaza (Dallas) on November 22, 1963. He as just a baby of course, and in a buggy. But, that buggy could well have concealed a high powered rifle, actually. Think about it.

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LINSEY

RULES ON RULES? That is right,

Bruce Linsey has finally drawn up a set of "Rules on Rules". Word on this comes from Dave Manuel who sought Bruce's help in formulating his house

rules for The Chamber. Bruce send him a list of 26 rules. "Rules to be used in formulating a set of house rules" that is. Dave sent me a copy of the letter. If anybody is really interested, I will Xerox it and send it off. I only read the first two or three and then though "aw the hell with it" and set them aside. But ... I am told that there are some of you out there in the hobby that really dig rules. Well to each his own.

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MAINARDI

Word from Havertown, PA is that Tom Mainardi's pet Beta (named Kathy) has a rather bad case of the ich and will probably not survive. Too bad. Tom is expecting to graduate from college this June with an A.B. in Geography. Sears and Roebuck has promised him a job at one of their catalog order desks if he winds up in the top third of his graduating class. Good luck Tom!

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MASTERS

John H. Masters, 25711 North Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355, is the party responsible for publishing Black Frog. In case your wondering, BF is the name of this exemplary 'zine you are reading. Since you have this copy and are reading this, you probably subscribe or trade to get this thing. Many people have requested a refund and have asked for their sub money back. "NO WAY JOSE", is the usual reply to requests of this type; unless you are Gary Coughlan, in which case the reply is "NO WAY HOSEA." Right now, I expect many persons are asking themselves, "is this really a copy of Black Frog, or is this a fake?" I would answer that question for you, but to tell you the honest truth--I don't know the answer.

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MICHALSKI

Old "Toots" himself, AKA John Michalski, has very recently been canned by his former employer, The Harper Oil Company. In Brutus Bulletin #85, John devotes 3 pages to a long and tedious explanation of just why that happened.

So much for all that bull-s. I decided to find out for myself what really happened. I phoned Harper Oil and asked for the personnel department. Told them that I was personnel manager at Lockheed and wanted to check the references of John Michalski whom, I said, had applied for

a job at Lockheed. Eventually I was connected to a Mr. Honeycutt who claimed to be familiar with Michalski and his file. Over the phone, I read John's statements, directly from BB, as to why he was no longer with Harper, and then asked Honeycutt if he would confirm this. When Honeycutt got done laughing, he told me his version of what had happened. It seems that ol' John had a lot of female employees working for him in an accounting office --but they kept getting pregnant. After becoming pregnant several of them (well three to be exact) had brought suit against Harper. They claimed that they had become pregnant on the job, that their boss (ol' John) was responsible since he had demanded sex as a part of their job duties. They demanded compensation from Harper Oil for their condition. In all cases it was just their word against John's (who denied everything), but after the third time this happened a pattern was becoming evident to Harper and they decided to do something about it.

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OVERBY

Glenn Overby is trying to spice up his zine, Jihad! to increase his circulation. He is going to add a "letters to the editor" section hoping to get a lot of controversy and mud-slinging like in Voice of Doom or Brutus Bulletin. His letters column will have the title "Bacon, Letters and Tomatoes." Good luck Glenn, I liked Jihad! the way it was, however.

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RODRIGUEZ

Al Rodriguez has certainly been having his troubles of late. He is currently jailed in Chula Vista, California on smuggling charges. On a recent trip to Tiajuana, he thought he would pick up some extra bucks by smuggling some cockatoos back across the border. He got four of them and was promised \$100.00 each if he would safely deliver them in San Diego. The temptation of picking up and "easy" 400 was too much for Alfredo to resist. He anaesthetized the birds, so they would sleep and be quiet while crossing the border, wrapped them in towels and then placed them inside the hub caps on his car. Either somebody tipped off the customs inspectors, or Al just looked suspicious. In any case they searched his car thoroughly and found them.

According to Tom Heflin, Al is being held in Chula Vista in want of bail that was set at \$10,000. He would like to hear from his many friends in the hobby. Please write: Al Rodriguez, c/o Chula Vista Jail, Chula Vista, CA.

SAMPSON

Bernard Sampson has announced that he will wind down the publication of Torpedo. He will terminate publication with issue number 24 and hopes that all games will be completed by that time.

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SWIDER

Apparently Tom Swider has given up being mediocre. Word from his cohort, M.P. Barno, is that Tom has consulted a psychologist to treat an "inferiority" complex. "This is going to be real difficult," the psychologist is reported to have said, "this kid don't have a normal inferiority complex, he is actually inferior."

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TROUBLE

Trouble, whom you all know is Bruce Linsey's dog and former candidate for hobby mascot is really in trouble now. Upset that his dog was not elected hobby mascot, Bruce has escorted him to the Leisureville dog pound. He will be held in the pound until Monday April 6th and, if he is not claimed by that time, gassed. Goodbye Trouble, maybe there are dirty feet up in doggy heaven.

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WELLS

Allen Wells, publisher of Dot Happy, has asked me to file a law suit in the state of California on his behalf and for him against one David Manuel. It seems that Dave Manuel has pirated a copyrighted Wells press dateline, "Frog-Killer" and intends to use it in his zine, The Chamber. I hate to see another law suit between hobby members (especially with Bob Arnett's suit against me coming up) but I will have to go ahead and file this thing for Allen. Sorry Dave, but right is right.

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WILSON

Brad Wilson, erstwhile publisher of Born to Dip, had a contest in issue number one of his 'zine. The readers were supposed to guess what college Brad would be attending next year. Everyone who guesses right is supposed to get 5 free issues of Whitestonia (Yeah, I know, who wants them?) as soon as Brad's college choice is determined. The smart money pick is Paoli, PA high school. Yes, Brad will be back there one more time. It seems like he has just failed history and will not be graduating this year.

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50 Pitfalls to Watch For in April (TEK905) by Al Capone		5.78	3 lbs.



ONCE AGAIN I AM TAKING IN A PAID ADVERTISEMENT TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF GETTING THIS ZINE OUT. DO NOT ORDER FROM ME, ORDER DIRECTLY FROM DAVE PERLMUTTER LATCHES LANE APTS. #608, MERION, PA 19066